

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 /086 W
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R 290649Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7924

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV PINT FT FR SO ET

SUBJ: FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER CHANGED; LPAI HOSTS FRENCH
JOURNALISTS

REF: ADDIS ABABA A-199 OF NOV. 10, 1975

1. LOCAL AFP CORRESPONDENT JEAN VINCENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM AN ALL-EXPENSES, HE SAID, WERE PAID BY AFRICAN POPULAR LEAGUE FOR INDEPENDENCE (LPAI). BINCENT SAID THAT LPAI WAS "VERY ACTIVE" IN CONTRAST TO ALI AREF'S PEOPLE WHO ARE "VERY WEAK".

2. LPAI LEADERS HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS WITH JOURNALISTS (ONE EACH FROM LE MONDE, QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, FRANCE-INTER (RADIO) AND "2-3 FRENCH TV CHAPS"). AMONG INVITEES WERE ALSO FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY SENATOR ROBERT GODON AND SOCIALIST DEPUTY
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FRANCESCHI. BINCENT TERMED THEM BOTH UNIMPRESSIVE AND AL-

MOST STUPID.

3. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH LPAI LEADER AHMED DINI (AND AFAR), VINCENT WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH HIS ABILITY AND INTELLIGENCE. "HE IS 150 PERCENT PRO-SOMALIA, BUT BELIEVES THAT SOMALIA WILL LET DJIBOUTI ALONE AFTER INDEPENDENCE." VINCENT TERMED LPAI CO-LEADER HASSAN GOULDED (A SOMALI) AS "NOTHING."

4. VINCENT ALSO STATED THAT FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER CHRISTIAN DABLANC HAD "BEEN SEACKED" BY ALI AREF. THE RUMOR IN DJIBOUTI, HE SAID, WAS THAT DABLANC HAD NOT BEEN FIRM ENOUGH IN HIS SUPPORT OF ALI AREF. COMMENT: INDEED, DABLANC TOLD EMBOFF DURING OCTOBER 1975 VISIT TO DJIBOUTI THAT ALI AREF WAS WEAK REED BUT ONLY ONE FRANCE HAD FOR THE MOMENT. (CF. REFAIR). END COMMENT. FRENCH FSO DON CAMILLE D'ORNANO, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE QUAI D'ORSAY REPORTEDLY WILL REPLACE DABLANC. D'ORNANO, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE A REPUTATION FOR TOUGHNESS, IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TFAI JAN. 28 OR 29.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIO INFO ON D'ORNANO PARIS OR YAOUNDE (WHERE HE HAS SERVED) MAY HAVE. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO WELCOME TEST OF STRONGLY PRO-SOMALI STATMENT WHICH ROBER GODON SAID HAVE MADE UPON HIS RETURN FROM DJIBOUTI TO PARIS.
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